



TOWN OF HANOVER
550 HANOVER STREET
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS 02339

Advisory Committee

Hanover Advisory Committee

550 Hanover Street

Hanover, MA 02339

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 – 6:30 pm

In-Person and Remote

Committee Attendees:

Emmanuel Dockter, Chair

Mike Cianciola

Nancy Clinton

Steve Freedman

Sandy Hayes

Jim Hoyes

Rachael Hughes

Joan Port-Farwell

Greg Satterwhite

Other Attendees:

Joe Colangelo, Town Manager

Chelsea Stevens, Finance Director

Victor Diniak, Director of Public Works

Kurt Kelley, Deputy Superintendent of Public Works (Field Operations)

Chair Emmanuel Dockter called the Advisory Meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Chair Dockter moved the review of minutes for the February 8th to the next meeting.

Chair Dockter welcomed Director Diniak and Deputy Supt. Kelley to present their FY'24 Budget (Public Buildings, DPW Administration and Water).

Chair Dockter asked Victor about the warrant articles Cedar School, Wood Hollow Way, Dump Truck, Middle School Water Main, Air Stripper and King St.

Cedar School Debt won't be seen for at least another fiscal year.

Everything is in order for the Wood Hollow Way street acceptance.

They have decided that it would be better to purchase a utility truck instead of a dump truck. They can carry equipment in a utility vehicle and that is what they need.

The Middle School water main project is on target, and it will include paving the rest of the Middle School parking lot.

Victor has a hard quote of \$270,000 on the air stripper.

The King Street water main project is on target.

Victor began his formal presentation by sharing that the budget tells a story (where we have been and what we are trying to accomplish). "There are good and bad characters in every story." The big picture is there are 3 areas of responsibility (Field, Facilities and Water).

Victor started his presentation with **Field Operations** – Kurt is in charge of the day-to-day operations. They have a great relationship with the other departments. The bad guys are inflation (supply chain, workforce challenges, the energy market, and solid water disposal). The budget is level funded. It does not include any extraordinary service. They have made a decision not to paint the fog lines on the roads. Relating to storm water management they moved some expenses over to the water budget. Victor shared that they might have to start putting an EPC bill on the taxes.

Question – Concern about the moving money between departments and are we being too aggressive trying to meet our obligations.

Victor shared that they are prioritizing the best they can!

Fuel discussion –One area where they are going to make an adjustment is they are going to chargeback fuel to the Fireworks Site clean-up account.

Victor moved to **Facility Operations** – this is mission critical work! There are lingering COVID issues. They have been able to increase staff. We lost two individuals within several weeks – Bob Murray to retirement and John Wright passed away. They are going to be using Mass Maritime students this summer. An area where we have to do more is in the area of inspections. The state requires inspections regularly. We developed a preventive maintenance program for the school kitchen equipment.

Question - The Facilities budget is a little less than last year.

Victor shared that there was a 6.1% increase in town hall doing work in the building. The Senior Center increase is because we are trying to properly budget a part-time individual. We hired a replacement for Bob Murray who will be a Facilities Engineer.

Victor moved to the Water Enterprise Budget – Providing a consistent supply of water and a high quality level water to town residents is a 24/7 operation. Inflation is negatively impacting the budget with cost of chemicals. There is a 40% increase in costs. There are high expectations of our users. We are much better prepared for PFAS. The higher tier water rates are helping to

drive downward adjustment in water use as residents rethink the importance of green lawns. The Water Department has changed 75% of the water meters. We do a lot to make sure water keeps flowing. The King Street water main is a dead-end main and we have to do this work.

Question – Is there a state website for water quality including town to town comparisons?

Victor is not familiar with one.

Victor completed his presentation. Chair Dockter asked if members had any questions. There were none. Chair Dockter thanked Victor and Kurt for their presentation.

Chair Dockter moved to the next agenda item: Members Discussion

One member asked about:

- ARPA spending - how are other towns spending ARPA money in prior years and currently?
- Another question that was asked - is there a need for us to be looking at an operational override next year or the following year. "Without one will be faced with cost and staffing reduction."

Chair Dockter asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the Advisory Committee. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.